Canada's unemployment mosaic, 2000 to 2006

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The unemployment rate is a well-known barometer of labour-market health. The rise in the national unemployment rate in the years immediately following the high-tech meltdown has been replaced by sustained annual declines, resulting in a rate of 6.3% for 2006. This is not only below the 6.8% registered during the boom, but a 30-year low as well.[1]

Of course not all parts of the country have shared equally in the improvement. Some have done better, others worse. Normally, comparisons involve the 10 provinces or 5 regions of Canada, but within each, many distinct labour markets can be found. This article focuses on the 28 census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and the 10 provincial non-CMA areas (see *Data source and definitions*). Using the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the article first tracks unemployment rate dispersion for local labour markets (CMAs and non-CMA areas) between 2000 and 2006. It then examines the comparative labour market performance of these areas based on unemployment rates and rankings, and unemployment duration. Unemployment levels, labour force, and employment are provided in an appendix.

Unemployment rate dispersion rising

The impressive performance of the national unemployment rate in recent years hides considerable geographic disparities. For example, in 2006 the unemployment rate in the Québec CMA averaged 5.2% compared with 8.4% in nearby Montréal. Similarly, the unemployment rate in Kitchener (5.2%) was much lower than in Windsor (9.0%).

That the unemployment rate will differ by geographic area is generally understood. All things being equal, the dispersion is expected to narrow in periods of economic growth, when the national rate is usually falling (Guillemette 2006). However, the reverse has been the case in the current expansion, just as it was in the boom years of the late 1980s (Gower 1996). The variation around the national rate has tended to increase among CMAs and non-CMA areas in the past five years (2002 to 2006) as the national rate has drifted down (Charts A and B) (see *Measuring dispersion*).

Several reasons have been suggested for the rise in dispersion during the current expansion. First, the economic growth may not be strong or widespread (Guillemette 2006). The current expansion has been strongest in Western Canada (Cross and Bowlby 2006; White, Michalowski and Cross 2006), while

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Measuring dispersion

For a number of reasons, gaps always exist between the national unemployment rate and rates registered by various CMAs and non-CMAs. An increase in the dispersion rate means the gap is widening, and vice versa. In this paper, dispersion rates for CMAs and non-CMA areas are calculated as a weighted mean of the differences between the area and national unemployment rates. Specifically, the absolute difference between each area rate and the national rate is multiplied by the area labour force. These products are summed and the total divided by the national labour force to produce aggregate dispersion. Finally, this is divided by the national unemployment rate to produce percent dispersion.

This is expressed algebraically as:

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{38} |u_i - u_n| \bullet \frac{LF_i}{LF_n}}{u_n}$$

where

U_i = unemployment rate in area i

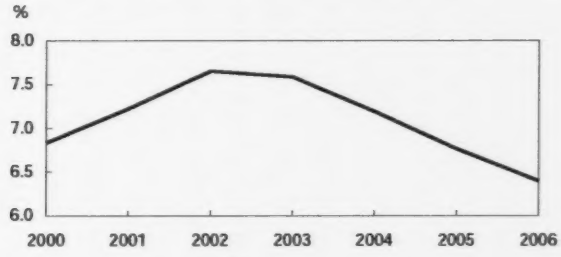
U_n = national unemployment rate

LF_i = labour force in area i

LF_n = national labour force

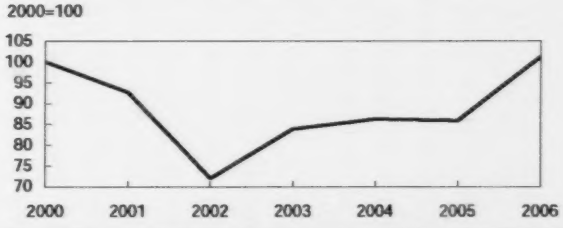
The dispersion of the average duration of unemployment was calculated in the same fashion.

Chart A Canada's 2006 unemployment rate lowest in 30 years



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2000 to 2006

Chart B Unemployment rate dispersion has been increasing since 2002



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2000 to 2006

performance in some large metropolitan areas such as Toronto and Montréal has been more moderate. Others suggest that programs such as Employment Insurance may be discouraging the migration of some unemployed from underperforming areas to 'hot' labour markets, thereby accentuating the dispersion (Guillemette 2006).

Trends and patterns in unemployment rates

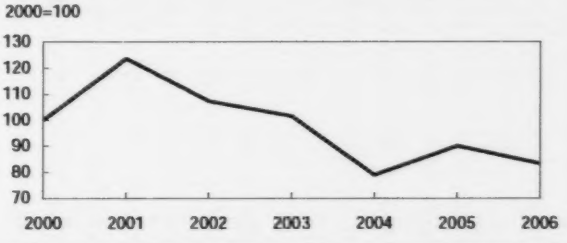
Starting from a low of 6.8% in the boom year of 2000, the national unemployment rate rose to 7.2% in 2001, in line with the high-tech meltdown. Unemployment peaked in 2002 (7.7%), stalled the following year at 7.6%, and then declined steadily to 6.3% in 2006 (Chart A). With few exceptions, most areas displayed similar trends (Table 1). The five areas with no clear trends were Prince Edward Island, Windsor, Thunder Bay, non-CMA Ontario, and Regina.

In both 2000 and 2006, Calgary registered among the lowest unemployment rates (4.5% and 3.2% respectively);[2] the highest rates were recorded in non-CMA Newfoundland and Labrador (21.3% and 19.3%).

Some areas emerged as perennial best performers, defined here as having the lowest unemployment rates in five of the seven years. Others were perennial poor performers. Nearly all the best performers were in the Prairies (Calgary, non-CMA Alberta, and non-CMA Manitoba, the exception being Victoria). The Alberta areas maintained their enviable position largely as a result of the prosperity brought on by the oil and gas industry and the increased activity in construction. The poor performers were non-CMA Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, non-CMA Nova Scotia, non-CMA New Brunswick, and Windsor.

Both nationally and in a substantial majority of CMAs and non-CMA areas, the unemployment rate in 2006 was lower than in 2000. In eight areas, however, the opposite was true. Except for Montréal, the areas were in Ontario, a province hit by reduced activity in manufacturing overall and the auto industry in particular. High energy costs and reduced exports, due in part to the appreciating Canadian dollar, adversely affected these industries. A similar fate befell the manufacturing industries of Montréal; particularly hard-hit were its aerospace industry as well as the clothing and textile industry. Montréal also saw an employment drop in public administration.

Chart C Dispersion in the duration of unemployment dropped sharply between 2001 and 2004



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2000 to 2006

Table 1 Unemployment rate by region

	2000	2002	2004	2006
		%		
Canada	**6.8**	**7.7**	**7.2**	**6.3**
Atlantic	**11.2**	**11.4**	**10.7**	**9.9**
Newfoundland and Labrador	**16.7**	**16.7**	**15.7**	**14.8**
St. John's	9.5	9.2	9.0	8.1
Non-CMA areas	21.3	21.4	20.0	19.3
Prince Edward Island	**12.1**	**12.0**	**11.3**	**11.0**
Nova Scotia	**9.1**	**9.6**	**8.8**	**7.9**
Halifax	6.3	7.6	6.0	5.0
Non-CMA areas	11.4	11.1	11.0	10.3
New Brunswick	**10.0**	**10.2**	**9.8**	**8.8**
Saint John	7.3	8.3	7.9	6.1
Non-CMA areas	10.6	10.6	10.1	9.3
Quebec	**8.5**	**8.6**	**8.5**	**8.0**
Saguenay	9.9	11.4	11.0	8.8
Québec	8.1	6.4	5.8	5.2
Trois-Rivières	10.8	10.2	10.7	8.1
Sherbrooke	8.1	7.9	6.9	7.9
Montréal	7.8	8.6	8.7	8.4
Gatineau	6.0	6.8	6.6	5.6
Non-CMA areas	9.7	9.5	9.3	8.6
Ontario	**5.8**	**7.1**	**6.8**	**6.3**
Ottawa	5.6	7.5	6.6	5.1
Kingston	7.0	6.8	6.4	6.2
Greater Sudbury	8.3	9.2	8.2	7.2
Oshawa	5.8	6.8	5.4	6.5
Toronto	5.5	7.4	7.5	6.6
Hamilton	5.1	6.7	6.3	5.9
St. Catharines–Niagara	6.0	7.4	7.4	6.4
London	6.1	7.1	5.9	6.2
Windsor	5.4	8.1	8.7	9.0
Kitchener	5.6	5.7	5.1	5.2
Thunder Bay	6.5	6.6	8.2	7.5
Non-CMA areas	6.2	6.6	5.8	6.0
Prairies	**5.0**	**5.3**	**4.9**	**3.8**
Manitoba	**5.0**	**5.1**	**5.3**	**4.3**
Winnipeg	5.3	5.3	5.5	4.6
Non-CMA areas	4.3	4.8	5.0	3.8
Saskatchewan	**5.1**	**5.7**	**5.3**	**4.7**
Regina	4.9	5.5	5.0	4.9
Saskatoon	5.6	6.1	6.2	4.4
Non-CMA areas	5.0	5.5	5.1	4.7
Alberta	**5.0**	**5.3**	**4.6**	**3.4**
Calgary	4.5	5.7	5.0	3.2
Edmonton	5.6	5.2	4.8	3.9
Non-CMA areas	4.9	4.9	4.1	3.3
British Columbia	**7.1**	**8.5**	**7.2**	**4.8**
Abbotsford	7.5	7.5	6.4	4.5
Vancouver	5.8	7.7	6.7	4.4
Victoria	6.7	7.0	5.3	3.7
Non-CMA areas	9.2	10.2	8.3	5.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2000 to 2006

Data source and definitions

The **Labour Force Survey** (LFS) collects information each month on labour market activity from the civilian, non-institutionalized population 15 years of age and over. The territories are excluded from the national total, as are persons living on Indian reserves. The survey samples approximately 54,000 households, with each remaining in the sample for six consecutive months.

A **census metropolitan area** (CMA) consists of an urban core with a population of 100,000 or more, together with adjacent urban or rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration with the core. Subtracting CMAs from the provincial total produces residuals consisting of smaller urban and rural areas. These are referred to as **non-CMA areas**. All of Prince Edward Island is defined as a non-CMA. While these provincial residuals obviously contain many local variations in labour market conditions, such detail is beyond the scope of this article.

The duration of unemployment describes how long (usually in weeks) someone has continuously been looking for a job. The LFS, by design, measures periods of continuous incomplete job search. Information on completed spells can be obtained from longitudinal data sources such as the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID).

Losses in ranking centred in Ontario

One way of demonstrating the fortunes of the CMAs and non-CMA areas is by way of changes in unemployment rate rank between 2000 and 2006 (Table 2). By this measure, labour markets in Ontario fared worst. Of the 16 areas that saw a deterioration in rank over the period, 9 were in Ontario. In Quebec, Montréal and to a lesser

Table 2 Areas ranked by unemployment rate

	2000	2002	2004	2006	2000 to 2006
	Rank				change
Calgary	2	7	3	1	1
Non-CMA Alberta	3	2	1	2	1
Victoria	22	17	8	3	19
Non-CMA Manitoba	1	1	3	4	-3
Edmonton	10	3	2	5	5
Saskatoon	10	9	15	6	4
Vancouver	14	24	21	6	8
Abbotsford	25	21	17	8	17
Winnipeg	7	4	10	9	-2
Non-CMA Saskatchewan	5	5	6	10	-5
Regina	3	5	3	11	-8
Halifax	20	23	14	12	8
Ottawa	10	21	19	13	-3
Québec	27	10	11	14	13
Kitchener	10	7	6	14	-4
Gatineau	16	14	19	16	0
Non-CMA British Columbia	30	32	28	16	14
Hamilton	6	13	16	18	-12
Non-CMA Ontario	19	11	11	19	0
Saint John	24	27	25	20	4
Kingston	23	14	17	21	2
London	18	18	13	21	-3
St. Catharines–Niagara	16	19	23	23	-7
Oshawa	14	14	9	24	-10
Toronto	9	19	24	25	-16
Greater Sudbury	29	29	26	26	3
Thunder Bay	21	11	26	27	-6
Sherbrooke	27	25	22	28	-1
St. John's	31	29	31	29	2
Trois-Rivières	35	32	34	29	6
Montréal	26	28	29	31	-5
Non-CMA Quebec	32	31	32	32	0
Saguenay	33	36	35	33	0
Windsor	8	26	29	34	-26
Non-CMA New Brunswick	34	34	33	35	-1
Non-CMA Nova Scotia	36	35	35	36	0
Prince Edward Island	37	37	37	37	0
Non-CMA Newfoundland and Labrador	38	38	38	38	0

Note: Area with the lowest unemployment rate is ranked number 1.
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2000 to 2006

Table 3 Areas with largest changes in unemployment rate rank

	2000 to 2006
Improved	
Victoria	19
Abbotsford	17
Non-CMA British Columbia	14
Québec	13
Vancouver and Halifax	8
Worse	
Regina	-8
Oshawa	-10
Hamilton	-12
Toronto	-16
Windsor	-26

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2000 to 2006

degree Sherbrooke also lost some ground, while in Saskatchewan, Regina and the non-CMA areas saw their rankings decline.

Of the five CMAs that registered the largest drops in ranking between 2000 and 2006, four were in Ontario's Golden Horseshoe (Oshawa, Hamilton, Toronto and Windsor) and the fifth was Regina (Table 3). The better performance of the western labour markets is also evident in their strongly positive rank changes. Four of the five areas with the best improvement were in British Columbia: Victoria, Abbotsford, non-CMA British Columbia, and Vancouver. B.C.'s labour market improvements came on the heels of gains in resource-based industries, construction and transportation, and in increased exports to the Far East, notably China. The Québec CMA also showed a significant improvement in ranking. Industries here registering respectable employment growth included public administration; information, culture and recreation; and transportation and warehousing.

Average unemployment duration falls in most CMAs

Average unemployment duration (weeks of continuous job search) provides one measure of the degree of difficulty faced by those searching for a job (Table 4).[3]

Unlike trends in the unemployment rate, a positive picture emerges from the average unemployment duration (Chart C). At the national level, duration fell by about 3 weeks (from 19.8 to 16.7 weeks) between 2000 and 2006. Declines were also registered in most areas

Table 4 Average duration of unemployment by region

	2000	2006	Change	
		Weeks		%
Canada	**19.8**	**16.7**	**-3.1**	**-15.7**
Atlantic	**20.4**	**16.0**	**-4.4**	**-21.6**
Newfoundland and Labrador	**25.9**	**19.1**	**-6.8**	**-26.3**
St. John's	25.9	17.0	-8.9	-34.4
Non-CMA areas	25.9	19.7	-6.2	-23.9
Prince Edward Island	**13.2**	**14.3**	**1.1**	**8.3**
Nova Scotia	**20.1**	**14.7**	**-5.4**	**-26.9**
Halifax	21.3	12.6	-8.7	-40.8
Non-CMA areas	19.6	15.5	-4.1	-20.9
New Brunswick	**16.2**	**14.4**	**-1.8**	**-11.1**
Saint John	19.9	12.6	-7.3	-36.7
Non-CMA areas	15.6	14.6	-1.0	-6.4
Quebec	**24.8**	**20.4**	**-4.4**	**-17.7**
Saguenay	20.7	22.4	1.7	8.2
Québec	27.4	17.7	-9.7	-35.4
Trois-Rivières	33.0	21.7	-11.3	-34.2
Sherbrooke	24.4	18.7	-5.7	-23.4
Montréal	24.5	21.8	-2.7	-11.0
Gatineau	23.8	17.4	-6.4	-26.9
Non-CMA areas	24.4	18.9	-5.5	-22.5
Ontario	**17.7**	**15.8**	**-1.9**	**-10.7**
Ottawa	17.2	13.5	-3.7	-21.5
Kingston	17.4	16.0	-1.4	-8.0
Greater Sudbury	18.6	13.9	-4.7	-25.3
Oshawa	13.5	16.0	2.5	18.5
Toronto	17.9	16.7	-1.2	-6.7
Hamilton	19.7	16.4	-3.3	-16.8
St. Catharines–Niagara	17.6	13.4	-4.2	-23.9
London	17.3	15.6	-1.7	-9.8
Windsor	16.2	15.2	-1.0	-6.2
Kitchener	18.2	13.1	-5.1	-28.0
Thunder Bay	21.1	16.0	-5.1	-24.2
Non-CMA areas	17.7	15.4	-2.3	-13.0
Prairies	**14.0**	**11.6**	**-2.4**	**-17.1**
Manitoba	**16.2**	**14.3**	**-1.9**	**-11.7**
Winnipeg	16.2	15.2	-1.0	-6.2
Non-CMA areas	16.1	12.1	-4.0	-24.8
Saskatchewan	**15.8**	**11.5**	**-4.3**	**-27.2**
Regina	16.8	12.5	-4.3	-25.6
Saskatoon	16.4	9.2	-7.2	-43.9
Non-CMA areas	15.1	12.1	-3.0	-19.9
Alberta	**12.6**	**10.5**	**-2.1**	**-16.7**
Calgary	13.7	9.1	-4.6	-33.6
Edmonton	12.1	8.4	-3.7	-30.6
Non-CMA areas	12.3	14.1	1.8	14.6
British Columbia	**19.0**	**14.7**	**-4.3**	**-22.6**
Abbotsford	21.7	11.2	-10.5	-48.4
Vancouver	18.4	16.0	-2.4	-13.0
Victoria	18.2	21.2	3.0	16.5
Non-CMA areas	19.4	12.4	-7.0	-36.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2000 and 2006

(33). Whereas 8 areas registered a higher unemployment rate in 2006, only 5 areas had a higher average unemployment duration (Prince Edward Island, Saguenay, Oshawa, non-CMA Alberta, and Victoria). Indeed, except for Oshawa, all areas in Ontario had shorter durations in 2006. The rise in duration in Victoria is intriguing since this CMA was among those registering the best improvement in unemployment rate.

In addition to the fairly steep drop in average unemployment duration in most areas, the degree of dispersion tightened. In 2000, duration ranged from just over 12 weeks in Edmonton and non-CMA Alberta to 33 weeks in Trois Rivières (Table 4). By 2006, it ranged from around 8 weeks in Edmonton to about 22 weeks in Saguenay, Trois Rivières and Montréal.

Summary

The benefits of the current economic expansion have not been shared equally by the various CMA and non-CMA areas acrossCanada. The unequal distribution is clearly evident in the disparities observed in unemployment rate movements in the different geographical areas.

The past four years have witnessed an improvement in unemployment rates in many areas. Alberta and British Columbia CMAs and non-CMA areas especially have recorded significant improvements, reflecting the boom in oil, gas and other resource-based industries, as well as increased activity in construction and transportation. Only two CMAs, Windsor and Thunder Bay, have seen some recent deterioration or fluctuation in their unemployment rates. In Windsor,

this was primarily due to setbacks in manufacturing industries in general and the auto industry in particular. The overall result has been an increase in the unemployment rate dispersion over the past several years.

However, the overall picture emerging from the average duration of unemployment in the 2000s is more encouraging. Not only did the average weeks of continuous job search fall between 2000 and 2006 in most areas, the difference between the shortest and longest also shrank.

Appendix

Areas in Ontario registered the largest increases in numbers unemployed. This paper examined shifts in unemployment through the unemployment rate and ranking, both measures being abstract. However, the number of people unemployed is also of interest.

At the national level, the number of unemployed increased by 2.4% (26,000) between 2000 and 2006. Almost all of the 15 areas registering increases in unemployment numbers were located in Ontario (11) and Quebec (3). The other CMA recording an increase was Regina. Some of the increases were fairly large. For example, unemployment rose in Windsor by 81% (7,000), in Toronto by 38% (54,000), and in Oshawa by 38% (3,000). In Montréal, it rose by 19% (27,000).

The remaining 23 areas recorded decreases in unemployment, with significant declines being registered in Québec (-28% or -8,000), Edmonton (-22% or -6,000), Victoria (-40% or -4,000), and non-CMA British Columbia (-35% or -24,000).

Table A1 Unemployment by region

	2000	2006	Change	
	'000		'000	%
Canada	**1,082.8**	**1,108.4**	**25.6**	**2.4**
All CMAS	654.2	716.3	62.1	9.5
All non-CMA areas	428.6	392.1	-36.5	-8.5
Atlantic	**126.6**	**118.3**	**-8.3**	**-6.6**
Newfoundland and Labrador	**39.8**	**37.5**	**-2.3**	**-5.8**
St. John's	8.8	8.2	-0.6	-6.8
Non-CMA areas	31.0	29.3	-1.7	-5.5
Prince Edward Island	**8.6**	**8.5**	**-0.1**	**-1.2**
Nova Scotia	**41.4**	**38.1**	**-3.3**	**-8.0**
Halifax	12.6	10.8	-1.8	-14.3
Non-CMA areas	28.8	27.3	-1.5	-5.2
New Brunswick	**36.8**	**34.2**	**-2.6**	**-7.1**
Saint John	4.8	4.0	-0.8	-16.7
Non-CMA areas	32.0	30.2	-1.8	-5.6
Quebec	**314.7**	**328.7**	**14.0**	**4.4**
Saguenay	7.2	6.8	-0.4	-5.6
Québec	28.7	20.8	-7.9	-27.5
Sherbrooke	6.5	7.0	0.5	7.7
Trois-Rivières	7.4	5.9	-1.5	-20.3
Montréal	142.5	169.8	27.3	19.2
Gatineau	8.5	9.5	1.0	11.8
Non-CMA areas	114.0	108.9	-5.1	-4.5
Ontario	**355.6**	**434.6**	**79.0**	**22.2**
Ottawa	25.3	25.9	0.6	2.4
Kingston	4.9	5.1	0.2	4.1
Oshawa	9.0	12.4	3.4	37.8
Toronto	142.5	196.6	54.1	38.0
Hamilton	18.5	23.5	5.0	27.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	12.1	12.9	0.8	6.6
Kitchener	13.2	13.8	0.6	4.5
London	14.8	16.2	1.4	9.5
Windsor	9.0	16.3	7.3	81.1
Greater Sudbury	6.8	6.1	-0.7	-10.3
Thunder Bay	4.2	5.0	0.8	19.0
Non-CMA areas	95.3	100.9	5.6	5.9
Prairies	**137.3**	**117.3**	**-20.0**	**-14.6**
Manitoba	**28.8**	**26.5**	**-2.3**	**-8.0**
Winnipeg	20.0	18.5	-1.5	-7.5
Non-CMA areas	8.9	8.0	-0.9	-10.1
Saskatchewan	**25.7**	**24.0**	**-1.7**	**-6.6**
Regina	5.3	5.6	0.3	5.7
Saskatoon	6.8	5.9	-0.9	-13.2
Non-CMA areas	13.5	12.5	-1.0	-7.4
Alberta	**82.8**	**66.8**	**-16.0**	**-19.3**
Calgary	25.8	21.8	-4.0	-15.5
Edmonton	28.9	22.7	-6.2	-21.5
Non-CMA areas	28.1	22.3	-5.8	-20.6
British Columbia	**148.6**	**109.6**	**-39.0**	**-26.2**
Vancouver	63.6	54.8	-8.8	-13.8
Victoria	11.1	6.7	-4.4	-39.6
Abbotsford	5.5	3.9	-1.6	-29.1
Non-CMA areas	68.4	44.2	-24.2	-35.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2000 and 2006

Table A2 Labour force by region

	2000	2006	Change	
	'000		'000	%
Canada	**15,847.0**	**17,592.8**	**1,745.8**	**11.0**
All CMAS	10,560.3	11,874.2	1,313.9	12.4
All non-CMA areas	5,286.7	5,718.6	431.9	8.2
Atlantic	**1,129.9**	**1,199.8**	**69.9**	**6.2**
Newfoundland and Labrador	**237.8**	**253.1**	**15.3**	**6.4**
St. John's	92.2	101.6	9.4	10.2
Non-CMA areas	145.6	151.5	5.9	4.1
Prince Edward Island	**71.3**	**77.1**	**5.8**	**8.1**
Nova Scotia	**452.8**	**480.0**	**27.2**	**6.0**
Halifax	200.9	215.7	14.8	7.4
Non-CMA areas	251.8	264.3	12.5	5.0
New Brunswick	**368.0**	**389.6**	**21.6**	**5.9**
Saint John	65.7	65.9	0.2	0.3
Non-CMA areas	302.3	323.7	21.4	7.1
Quebec	**3,717.5**	**4,094.2**	**376.7**	**10.1**
Saguenay	72.7	77.2	4.5	6.2
Québec	354.3	397.4	43.1	12.2
Trois-Rivières	68.6	73.2	4.6	6.7
Sherbrooke	79.8	88.8	9.0	11.3
Montréal	1,819.7	2,026.7	207.0	11.4
Gatineau	142.4	169.7	27.3	19.2
Non-CMA areas	1,180.0	1,261.1	81.1	6.9
Ontario	**6,172.7**	**6,927.3**	**754.6**	**12.2**
Ottawa	454.3	509.0	54.7	12.0
Kingston	70.1	82.4	12.3	17.5
Greater Sudbury	82.3	84.2	1.9	2.3
Oshawa	155.9	189.7	33.8	21.7
Toronto	2,597.7	2,998.7	401.0	15.4
Hamilton	362.1	395.3	33.2	9.2
St. Catharines–Niagara	202.5	203.1	0.6	0.3
London	243.5	261.8	18.3	7.5
Windsor	166.4	181.3	14.9	9.0
Kitchener	234.4	265.2	30.8	13.1
Thunder Bay	65.0	66.5	1.5	2.3
Non-CMA areas	1,538.4	1,690.2	151.8	9.9
Prairies	**2,747.1**	**3,066.5**	**319.4**	**11.6**
Manitoba	**581.1**	**613.5**	**32.4**	**5.6**
Winnipeg	375.4	400.7	25.3	6.7
Non-CMA areas	205.7	212.8	7.1	3.5
Saskatchewan	**499.2**	**515.6**	**16.4**	**3.3**
Regina	108.7	115.2	6.5	6.0
Saskatoon	121.9	133.9	12.0	9.8
Non-CMA areas	268.5	266.5	-2.0	-0.7
Alberta	**1,666.8**	**1,937.5**	**270.7**	**16.2**
Calgary	567.7	676.9	109.2	19.2
Edmonton	520.0	584.0	64.0	12.3
Non-CMA areas	579.1	676.6	97.5	16.8
British Columbia	**2,079.9**	**2,305.1**	**225.2**	**10.8**
Abbotsford	73.8	86.3	12.5	16.9
Vancouver	1,095.7	1,241.9	146.2	13.3
Victoria	166.4	182.0	15.6	9.4
Non-CMA areas	743.9	794.9	51.0	6.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2000 and 2006

Table A3 Employment by region

	2000	2006	Change	
	'000		'000	%
Canada	**14,764.2**	**16,484.3**	**1,720.1**	**11.7**
All CMAS	9,906.0	11,157.8	1,251.8	12.6
All non-CMA areas	4,858.2	5,326.5	468.3	9.6
Atlantic	**1,003.3**	**1,081.5**	**78.2**	**7.8**
Newfoundland and Labrador	**198.0**	**215.7**	**17.7**	**8.9**
St. John's	83.5	93.4	9.9	11.9
Non-CMA areas	114.6	122.2	7.6	6.6
Prince Edward Island	**62.7**	**68.6**	**5.9**	**9.4**
Nova Scotia	**411.4**	**441.8**	**30.4**	**7.4**
Halifax	188.3	204.8	16.5	8.8
Non-CMA areas	223.0	237.0	14.0	6.3
New Brunswick	**331.2**	**355.4**	**24.2**	**7.3**
Saint John	60.9	61.9	1.0	1.6
Non-CMA areas	270.3	293.5	23.2	8.6
Quebec	**3,402.8**	**3,765.4**	**362.6**	**10.7**
Saguenay	65.6	70.4	4.8	7.3
Québec	325.6	376.6	51.0	15.7
Sherbrooke	73.3	81.9	8.6	11.7
Trois-Rivières	61.2	67.3	6.1	10.0
Montréal	1,677.2	1,856.8	179.6	10.7
Gatineau	133.8	160.2	26.4	19.7
Non-CMA areas	1,066.0	1,152.1	86.1	8.1
Ontario	**5,817.1**	**6,492.7**	**675.6**	**11.6**
Ottawa	429.1	483.1	54.0	12.6
Kingston	65.1	77.3	12.2	18.7
Oshawa	146.9	177.3	30.4	20.7
Toronto	2,455.3	2,802.1	346.8	14.1
Hamilton	343.6	371.9	28.3	8.2
St. Catharines–Niagara	190.4	190.2	-0.2	-0.1
Kitchener	221.2	251.4	30.2	13.7
London	228.7	245.6	16.9	7.4
Windsor	157.4	165.1	7.7	4.9
Greater Sudbury	75.5	78.1	2.6	3.4
Thunder Bay	60.9	61.5	0.6	1.0
Non-CMA areas	1,443.1	1,589.3	146.2	10.1
Prairies	**2,609.8**	**2,949.2**	**339.4**	**13.0**
Manitoba	**552.3**	**587.0**	**34.7**	**6.3**
Winnipeg	355.4	382.2	26.8	7.5
Non-CMA areas	196.9	204.8	7.9	4.0
Saskatchewan	**473.5**	**491.6**	**18.1**	**3.8**
Regina	103.4	109.6	6.2	6.0
Saskatoon	115.1	128.0	12.9	11.2
Non-CMA areas	255.0	254.0	-1.0	-0.4
Alberta	**1,584.0**	**1,870.7**	**286.7**	**18.1**
Calgary	541.9	655.1	113.2	20.9
Edmonton	491.1	561.3	70.2	14.3
Non-CMA areas	551.0	654.2	103.2	18.7
British Columbia	**1,931.3**	**2,195.5**	**264.2**	**13.7**
Vancouver	1,032.1	1,187.1	155.0	15.0
Victoria	155.3	175.2	19.9	12.8
Abbotsford	68.3	82.3	14.0	20.5
Non-CMA areas	675.6	750.8	75.2	11.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2000 and 2006

■ Notes

1 Caution must be exercised when comparing recent LFS employment and unemployment estimates with those prior to 1976—when the questionnaire underwent significant changes.

2 In actual fact, in 2000 Calgary's unemployment rate (4.5%) was bettered by that of non-CMA Manitoba (4.3%).

3 The LFS average durations in Table 4 are, by survey design, for incomplete job search. These are shorter than completed search durations provided by other surveys such as the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID). Notwithstanding, the LFS data still provide useful insights on labour market health.

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